

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 962

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, UR, US

SUBJECT: US/SOVIET OIL NEGOTIATIONS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. AT GROMYKO LUNCH FOR SECRETARY JAN 21, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KUZ'MIN TALKED TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT FORTHCOMING US-SOVIET OIL NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON. HE ANTICIPATED DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE "DIFFICULT," HAVING IN MIND ATTITUDES US HAD ADOPTED ON OIL DURING MOSCOW TALKS LAST OCTOBER.

2. KUZ'MIN STATED DRAFT AGREEMENT US SIDE HAD SUBMITTED WOULD CLEARLY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS. IT CONTAINED FAR TOO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT COSTS, SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC. THESE WERE THINGS PROPERLY LEFT FOR COMPANIES TO DEAL WITH IN COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS.

3. KUZ'MIN STRESSED HIS VIEW THAT A US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON OIL SHOULD CONSIST OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD SERVE TO GUIDE COMPANIES. IT SEEMED APPARENT FROM HIS REMARKS THAT OSIPOV WOULD ADOPT SIMILAR LINE, AT LEAST INITIALLY, IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS.
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